



New Vision News

June 9, 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3

Editor: TTabone

Check us out on the web at www.n-v-i.org



"Vision Impairment Services In Our Neighborhood"

Lake-Sumter Community College

9501 US Hwy 441

Leesburg, FL 34788



Charles Bonnet Syndrome

Many older adults with age-related visual impairments experience visual hallucinations that are due to a condition known as Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS). 21% of those with Age Related Macular Degeneration experience visual hallucinations monthly or more frequently. Though not only those with a visual loss due to AMD experience hallucinations. Visual hallucinations are sensory perceptions that occur without external stimuli and are not controlled by the persons who are experiencing them. They are often described as simple or unformed and complex or formed. Simple hallucinations include seeing spots, flashes, floaters, and shapes, such as circles or squares. Complex visual hallucinations include seeing people, faces, plants, animals, objects, and sometimes complete scenes. Hallucinations have been reported to last from seconds to hours and have occurred with the eyes open and closed. No one factor is responsible for triggering visual hallucinations, but a number of conditions seem to coincide with the onset. Social isolation, living alone, stress, fatigue, low or bright lighting, inactivity, and sensory reductions have been reported to be conducive to hallucinations. Just as there is no uniform prompt for a hallucination, there is no standard procedure to stop them. Some people have reported stopping the hallucinations by blinking; closing their eyes; approaching, talking to, or fixating on the hallucinations; focusing attention elsewhere; and even trying to swing their fists at the hallucination. However, the majority of persons have no control over when they begin or end.

At the end of April, 7 students from The Villages graduated from New Vision's Independent Living Skills class. Congratulations to Richard London, Ina Jenrette, Helen Rorvik, Virginia Mohl, Connie Isleib, Grace Quirk, and Yvonne Gordon. 3 students completed Braille classes and 5 completed Assistive Technology classes. There also were 11 students who completed Itinerant ILS classes.

Exciting news! 4 of our students will be attending Dog Guide School. Pat Guckin, Pam Nuss, Cicely Sheffield will be working with a Guide dog for the first time and New Vision Board President, Colleen Kollmann, will be working with a new dog as her present dog, Rial, after many years of faithful service, will be retiring. Cicely has received her dog, Dorothy, and Pam's dog is named Roman.

Congratulations to Sue Cordova who has been appointed CEO of United Way of Lake & Sumter Counties. On April 9th, John province announced his retirement after 40 years of service to various United Ways throughout Florida. Good Luck to John in his retirement and we look forward to continuing to work with Sue, who has many years of experience with United Way, to help those in need in Lake and Sumter Counties.

Happy Birthday to the Mount Dora Lions! In April, the Lions celebrated 71 years of service to the community. Thank you Lions for all you do!

There is no cure or standard treatment for CBS. A crucial component in the management of CBS involves educating persons about the syndrome and assuring those who do not have Parkinson's or other brain diseases that they are not mentally ill or developing dementia. Taken from *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*.

5k Run/Walk for New Vision

Scheduled for Saturday, October 30th, we are very excited about the additions to our annual event! Last year, we successfully added a 5k Run and this year we will be having a low vision fair. We will be inviting vendors to set up their products to demonstrate and answer questions about their low vision aids.

There is a lot of planning and work before the event that needs to take place to make it an enjoyable and successful day for all who attend. We are in need of volunteers to help with the planning before October as well as volunteers on the 30th. If you are able to help in any way, coming to meetings, making phone calls to sponsors, vendors, donors, or going to businesses to request their support, please call 352-435-5040. With your help, we will have a great time on October 30th!



October 30, 2010 | Leesburg, FL

Enjoy Disney

Disney has created a wireless handheld device that is designed to assist visually impaired park visitors by providing audio descriptions of what is happening in select attractions. The device is available with a refundable \$100 deposit from the guest-relations office at the park. For more information call 407-824-4321

Volunteer(s) Needed

New Vision regularly sets up an information table at the Health Fairs/Expos throughout Lake and Sumter Counties. We are in need of volunteers to attend the fairs and inform the public of the services we provide. Unfortunately, as a non-profit, we are unable to reimburse for time or travel. If you are available and would like to help, please call 352-435-5040.

Fighting Back

In 1990, 21 year old Robert Ott was a martial arts expert and owner of his own studio. He pretty much had life by the tail. That is, until he became the victim of a crime which left him blind. After much despair over his situation, Ott's indomitable spirit, nurtured through his martial arts training, gave him the strength he needed to move on in life. He has proved that blindness need not stop people from pursuing their dreams. Today, Ott teaches martial arts all over the country, leads seminars to share his story, and has written an inspiring biography with co-writer Bob Olson, who also assisted him with a documentary about his life. Ott is married with two children and is the CEO of Certain Victory Food Services in Washington. *Taken from Coffee News.*

Interested in going to the movies?

Two theater chains in the area offer descriptive movies to their patrons. Check Regal Theaters at <http://www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/opencaptionedshowtimes.aspx#FL> and AMC Theaters at Altamonte or Pleasure Island at <http://www.amcentertainment.com/AssistedMoviegoing/>

Are you a Veteran who served during wartime?

The Veteran's Memorial of Fountain Park in Leesburg will engrave your name in granite on the Memorial's

wall. Call 352-314-2100 or visit their website www.lakeveterans.com for more information.

Political News

In April, Bebe Chudeusz, Executive Director of New Vision, participated in Legislative Day organized by Florida association of Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB). She had 20 meetings with senators and representatives or their aides including every one with districts in Lake, Sumter, and south Marion counties. They were informed of services that we provide. During that legislative session a bill passed that provides for distribution of funds collected from voluntary contributions, etc. and becomes effective 10/1/2010. The bill requires the application form for motor vehicle registration or renewal of registration to include language permitting the applicant to make a voluntary contribution to Blind Babies and Blind Youth Services, for services for persons with developmental disabilities, and to the Ronald McDonald House.



Another way to help

As a member of FAASB, New Vision is eligible to share in the funds raised through the sale of the specialty license plate "A State of Vision". Consider checking the box to benefit Youth Blind Services when renewing your vehicle registration and purchasing the specialty plate.

Calling all cooks!

We would like to compile recipes that are simple to make, serve 1 to 2 people, and can be made in the microwave or toaster oven. If you have a recipe that fits the bill e-mail it to jpruett@n-v-i.org or mail it to New Vision, 9501 US Hwy 441, Leesburg, FL 34788. Thank you!

Unusual lesson in the water: Leading the blind to surf

Students, ages 14-22, in the transition program at the Center for the Visually Impaired in Daytona Beach had their year-end party at the beach recently. Ricky Gehris, a lifelong surfer who runs the Surfari Surf School in San Diego and Ormond Beach took several of the visually impaired young people out for a ride on the waves.



Our Mission Statement

New Vision for Independence is committed to excellence in providing rehabilitation, community education, and support services for people with low vision or blindness and their families to promote independence, acceptance, and self-confidence.

Become a Supporter of New Vision for Independence!

New Vision serves Lake and Sumter counties and all of The Villages, providing training, community education, and support services for people with low vision or blindness and their families. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we rely on donations and support from the community. Please make a donation today to help us continue assisting people with visual impairments in our community.

Get a **FREE GIFT** with your donation of \$25 or more!



Send donations to New Vision for Independence at 9501 US Hwy 441, Leesburg, FL 34788. Your name will be listed in our Annual Report unless otherwise noted.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call 352-435-5040 or e-mail info@n-v-i.org to be removed from the mailing list.